

NIN

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/037,089	TSUJI, AKIHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marina Fishman	2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to 10/06/2003.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-14, 16 and 17.
- The drawings filed on 09 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - All
  - Some\*
  - None of the:
    - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

- CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material  
 Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Examiner's Amendment/Comment  
 Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
 Other

*[Handwritten signature]*

#### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. Claims 11 – 14, 16 and 17 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest, in combination with the claimed elements, a key switch with U-shaped bridging member connecting the plurality of extruded parts and the plurality of key tops, wherein the U-shaped bridging member made of a thermoplastic elastomer and arranged in a bridge plane substantially parallel to the key top.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marina Fishman whose telephone number is 703-305-1665. The examiner can normally be reached on 6-4 M-T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on (703) 308-1782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1920.

Marina Fishman  
October 20, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MF", is positioned above a small, rectangular, faintly printed official seal or stamp. The seal contains text that is mostly illegible but includes "U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" and "SEARCHED" and "INDEXED".